

FIRST CLASS MAIL



A Publication of
THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
c/o 641 Kismet Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115-1114

The Blurb



JACK HARING
VIRGINIA HARING - W3IIM
2113 Edgehill Drive
Furlong PA 18926-1101

W3IIM
R



The Blurb

July 1995

PHIL-MONT'S YANKEE DOODLE DANDIES



Born on the 4th of July!

Our 46th year



VOLUME 45

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. *Blurb* subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets sometime after 7:30 p.m. on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street, or the parking garage on 21st street.

ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 p.m. - *SHARP!*

CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at W3TKQ: (215) 448-1139
Repeater frequencies: 147.03 MHz (Roxboro input requires no PL, but outputs 91.5 Hz.)
PL required for off-site receiver (OSR) access:
Bucks County 131.8 Hz—Center City 103.5 Hz—Lansdale 114.8 Hz
444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)
Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz
Packet BBS frequency at W3TKQ: 144.99 MHz
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB
W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I
AMATEURS (with license) ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: WU3I, Steve Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-8061
1st VICE PRESIDENT: KE3CZ, Bob Wilcox, P.O. Box 21914, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-7355
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: N3FVI, Bill Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (215) 487-9472
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ASSISTANT TREASURER: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

DIRECTORS

W3BBB (96); AA3EP (95); K3GNM (A); W3GQD (A); KB3IV (95); K3KUD (A); W3RM (96)

COMMITTEES

Archives:	W3IIN	Field Day:	N3IEI	Repeater:	W3BBB
<i>Blurb</i> Folding:	WB3KOH&J	Membership:	N3OWM	Special Events:	AA3EP
Budget / Audit:	K3KUD	Net Control:	KB3IV	VE Program:	ND3Q
Directory:	WB3KOJ	Program:	KE3CZ	TVI:	W3VVS
Education:	AA3CH	Publicity:	N3IEI	W3TKQ:	KB3IV
Emerg. Coord.:	W3BBB	Refreshments:	N3FVI	Welcome:	NEEDED

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Labels: WB3KOJ

Publisher/Typist: W3IIN

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting!

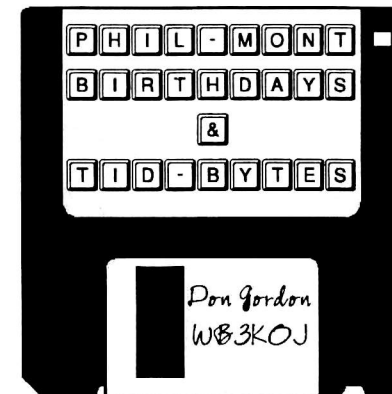
NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET (RESUMES IN SEPT.)
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Ted Katz - N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL N3FVI)
4th Marlon Blum (XYL N3AXJ)
Don DiGiovanni - N3NJI
John DiGiovanni - N3LUD
Mike Wlcek - N3PDO
09 Wayne Lewis - N3MUG
Donna Rush (XYL WT3X)
10 Natalie Gordon - WB3KOH
12 Frances Munyan (XYL WA2SIT*)
Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)
14 Bill Clayton - K3HIE
Larry Clifford - W3UY
Mary Ann Conshick (XYL WB3ERB)
20 Irv Miller - K3KNH
21 Stan Weinstein - N3TMC*
23 Theresa Henderson (XYL KA3MHO)
24 Josh Feierman - N3NLR
Peggy Snyder (XYL W2SHA)
25 Jinny Haring - W3IIN
26 Virginia Kleinguenther (XYL KA3SWU*)
27 Jules Markowitz - N3IZZ
29 Jim Larkin - KA2FFP*
31 Bee Dee Dagit - N3SYK*
Steve Hoch - WU3I

*Indicates New Member 1994-95



MEMBERSHIP STATS

167 Fully paid
23 Family
3 Honorary
4 Pending

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership?
Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...
contact Ed Masarsky, KB3IV, for details.

"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy ♪!

Phil-Mont's Submarine Service

Steve Hoch, WU3I

Well! It was a fun time had by all. Paddlerama 1995 was a rousing success, and general good time for all involved.

Day one got started off on a bad foot with a noticeable reduction of coverage by the Washington, NJ repeater, so we had to switch to simplex, and relay messages to each other up and down the river.

Jinny-W3IIN was again riding with the timekeeper, and all traffic was forwarded to her and the next station down river.

The scouts showed with 18 canoes, and proceeded to give us something to report. After the timely arrival of the Sweep Canoe crew we bade farewell to the Delaware Water Gap and moved down river.

After a set of gates, and new paddlers for each canoe, came the dreaded *foul rift* rapids. The only reason we point out the foul rift rapids is that the river was low and slow again this year, but that did not deter our intrepid Sweep Canoe Crew from being the only capsizing casualty of those rapids. Everything went for a swim including the 2M 'canoe rig', and the amplifier, motor and, oh yes, the crew. As of this writing the sweep canoe rig is not functional, even after the heroic attempt to resuscitate with a hair dryer in the campground (you had to see it to believe it).

After a long day on the river, a relaxing evening of food and fun (?) in the campground followed.

Day two came up warm and hazy, but blew off to a warm and sunny day. The canoes were launched at 9:20 and we got running. There were no rapids today but

some of yesterday's water decided it was time to show up in the motor, and did just that. After a fresh tank of fuel, and a little cleaning, we were on the way again.

There were no problems on day two, and all had fun. Thanks to W3IIN, W3IIM, W3PXY, N3FTC, N3VJE, KB3IV, WA3KLR and W3YLT. Special thanks to the Sweep Canoe Crew; WB3BPI, WB3CEO, WB3JOU and even WB3AYA (even though he swamped the canoe).

The only problem was the repeater on day one, and we will try to find another repeater for next year. Those wishing to participate next year contact WU3I. ☺



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

CALL:	WN3PDB
NAME:	Charles Johnson, Jr.
HANDLE:	Charlye
CLASS:	Advanced
ADDRESS:	5044 Cedar Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19143-1653
HOMEPHONE:	(215) 472-5589
BUSINESS PHONE:	(215) 361-6439
OCCUPATION:	Electronics Technician
INTERESTS:	W3TKQ, VE, Repeater, Sunshine

The PREZ SEZ

Steve Hoch, WU3I



Here it is July—Independence Day in the Cradle of Liberty. Sounds nice; sounds like all is well in the world.

WELL WATCH OUT PHIL-MONT!

A few months ago W3STW took on the monumental task of securing a ballot for the December elections. Assisted by the always present K3KUD and K3GNM. If you can help *your club* by serving as an officer or director say YES when you hear from a member of the Nominating Committee. ☺

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Nominating Committee, 1995

Greetings from W3STW—AI the PMRC Nominating Committee Chairman. Please welcome me and my fellow committee members K3KUD—Bob and K3GNM—AI. We are going to be a part of the Blurb for a few editions at least, bringing you news about our efforts to put together a slate of nominees.

As a starter to stir up interest in the nominating process, I ask each of you to find your BYLAWS 1994 and please read Article 8—Officers and Rules Of Elections. If you can't find your BYLAWS 1994 give me a call and I'll see how to rectify the situation. For now best 73
W3STW—AI. ☺

Family Night Redux

Family Night will beheld this month at the General meeting. A new film titled "The Living Seas" is just in at the Omniverse Theater. The price is still a bargain at \$4 per person. Bring your spouse, kids, grandparents or the neighbors' kids; we have seating for 300.

UPCOMING

July 5 General Meeting Program: *FAMILY NIGHT* Omniverse Theatre

- July 6 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- July 19 Directors' Meeting at
N3OOV's
- Aug 2 General Meeting
- Aug 3 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- Aug 16 Directors' Meeting at
W3BBB's

HAMFESTS

- July 9 TIMONIUM, MD
BRATS
- Aug 6 WARRINGTON, PA
Mid Atlantic ARC
- Aug 13 EASTON, PA
Delaware Lehigh ARC
- Aug 20 GEORGETOWN, DE
Delmarva
- Aug 27 MULLICA HILL, NJ
Gloucester Co. ARC
- Sept 10 GAITHERSBURG, MD
Foundation for Amateur Radio
- Sept 17 PENNSAUKEN, NJ
South Jersey RA
- Sept 23-24 YORK, PA
- Oct 1 WARRINGTON, PA
Pack Rats
- Oct 22 SELLERSVILLE, PA
RF Hill ARC
- Oct 29 NEWTOWN, PA
Penn Wireless Assn.

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1995 test fee is \$5.90; there is no charge for a Novice test.

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
(215) 879-0505 day, (215) 482-0386 home
- **BELLMAWR, NJ**
Monthly, 3rd Thursday—Bill Helm at ag
(609) 546-7710
- **BRYN MAWR**
Irregularly—Bob Lees
(215) 265-6032
- **LEVITTOWN**
Monthly, 1st Saturday—George LeNoir, WR3B
(215) 943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)**
8/26—Russ Stafford, AA3CH
(610) 358-2311
- **MORRISVILLE**
Monthly, 3rd Thursday—Dave Munson, NM3K
(215) 788-7515
- **POTTSTOWN**
Monthly, 1st Monday—Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764
- **TELFORD**
Monthly, 3rd Monday—Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**
Monthly, Last Saturday—Jeff DePolo
(215) 898-8538 shack, (215) 337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**
Monthly, Last Wed.—Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

- Charlie Weigand, AA3EP (215) 324-0167
- Sep 30 City-to-Shore (2-day round trip)
- Dec 3 Brian's Run (West Chester area)



PRIDE

I was sort of wondering just what sort of pride is in a statement "inspected with pride by D-5"? Seems to me that if I was inspecting something, and I was proud of the item, I would want my name on the item.

I bought a pair of pants, and in each pocket was a piece of paper saying inspected with pride by D-5, and a third piece of paper stating inspected with pride P-34. So I guess that P-34 checked up on old D-5 and was proud of it. Oh well, maybe someday I'll run across P-34 and D-5. At least I won't forget their names like I do most people. ☺

AA3CH Packet Board via WB3KOJ

CLUB INFORMATION

24 Hour Information Number at W3TKQ
(215) 448-1139

May 30, 1995

To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX024 SSTV at W1AW

A complete, modern slow scan television system has been donated to W1AW. The system, designed by John Langner, WB2OSZ, includes his PASOKON TV software, a "frame grabber," a 486 color computer, and a charge coupled device (CCD) camera. His system is described in the cover story in January 1993 QST. The system, valued at some 2000 dollars, was donated by Norm Creller, W8MPM, who said "I owe my Morse code skills to W1AW code practice, and still monitor bulletins from the station. I wanted to do something in return." Creller is a manager at Chrysler Motors in Toledo, Ohio. The new SSTV equipment is set up for use by visitors to W1AW. They will be able to observe SSTV on the HF bands as well as to send pictures. ♦



Commodore PCs Brought Back to Life By German Company

Escom Plan to Revive Amiga And Other Models Cheers Fanatical Group of Users

The pioneering computers of Commodore Electronics Ltd., whose production was halted last year after the company's long, sorry decline, came back from the dead with the help of a German computer retailer.

Escom AG, which operates about 1,500 computer stores in Europe, paid \$10 million for the rights to the Commodore name, its patents and intellectual property in a bankruptcy-court auction. Escom yesterday said it plans to resume production of Commodore personal computers, including its famed Amiga model, in China, and to distribute them world-wide.

The news cheered longtime Commodore users, a small but fanatically loyal group which had watched in dismay as the sale of Commodore's assets dragged out for a year.

"I'm glad it's finally over," said Jason Compton, a Northwestern University student who publishes the Amiga Report on the Internet. But he said he worries about Escom's long-term commitment to the Amiga, a proprietary computer that is neither fish nor fowl in a PC market divided between computers adhering to the International Business Machines Corp. standard and those that operate on Apple Computer Inc.'s Macintosh software.

Escom, Mr. Compton says, may find it too expensive to develop a much-needed follow-on model to the current Amiga, a design first introduced in 1985, and may quietly let the model die while continuing to use the Commodore name on IBM-standard PCs, which it currently sells under the Escom name.

But Escom said it has big plans for the Amiga. In addition to resuming production of the entire product line, it says it will integrate Amiga technology into the MS-DOS software format, used on 80% of the world's PCs. It also plans to develop TV set-top control boxes, used for interactive TV, based on the Amiga design.

Commodore derived about 80% of its sales in Europe, said Petro Tyschtschenko, Escom's general manager of production. A particularly attractive market for the retailer may be "the kids who bought them when they were 10 or 12 years old," and now are looking for a new model, said Mr. Tyschtschenko, who worked for Commodore until recently.

Commodore sold about five million Amigas, which incorporated such multimedia features as color video and stereo sound years before most other PCs. The auction, overseen by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York, attracted a last-minute, \$15 million bid from Dell Computer Corp., which didn't plan to restart production but was interested in Commodore's patents. But Dell attached certain conditions to its bid, which tipped the scales in favor of Escom, according to lawyers for the German concern and the court-appointed liquidators. ☐

The Wall Street Journal

Call
1-800-32-NEW-HAM
for free information for
prospective hams

MINUTES

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Al Tribble, W3STW, Secretary



PMRC President, WU3I—Steve called the meeting to order for the 545th time. Welllll... not exactly. 545 divided by 12 months equals 45.41666667 years, Steve is not 45 years old.

The President opened the 545th PMRC meeting with comments regarding the change in scheduling Family Night. It seems as though another group had asked for use of the Omni Theater before PMRC, or we were not put on the Omni Theater list for June. Steve says Family Night will be re-scheduled.

AA3CH—Russ had a short stay in the hospital having sustained an allergy attack, but is now home. Hang in there Russ.

Steve asked those interested in Field Day and intending to participate to please contact N3IEI—Chris. Chris also needs commitments for CW Operators and a generator. Again, if you can help please contact Chris his telephone number is in this issue of the *Blurb*.

Membership Chairman N3OWM—Ted announced receipt of an application from KB3AFH—Jules. Ted also has membership packets for KB2RGQ and WA2SIT.

KB3IV—Ed, Assistant Treasurer, reports that for the period there was a balance of \$2278.82, expenses of \$601.46, and income of \$93.00 leaving a balance of \$1770.36. Ed reminded us to contact him if we are renewing our ARRL membership, or joining the ARRL for the first time, so that he can process the paper work. If you do

PMRC benefits financially do so through the club. ARRL dues are \$31.00 per year [membership is not just a magazine subscription!—ed].

As Net Control Chairman, Ed reports that the fall '95 Tuesday night CW training session will be in good shape with the return of the old guard and a new volunteer. The 2 meter and 75 meter nets are OK for the time being. Kudos to Hal for his unfailing help as the Ten-On-Ten Net Control Operator.

While praises for good deeds were being expressed, Ed mentioned the fine job Ten Tec had done repairing the Omni VI, a letter of gratitude has been forwarded to the Ten Tec Public Relations Department. As Jacket Committee Chairman Ed delivered the club jackets. Ed says that when he receives a commitment for another 12 jackets he will then ask for the money and place the order. WU3I was heard to say "make me number one on that list." Ed's phone number is right here in the *Blurb*, give him a call.

Special Events Chairman AA3EP—Charlie, says thank you for the support given at the Spring Classic. For N3FVI—Bill, he also thanked the volunteers that participated in the CoreStates Bicycle Race. Charlie is looking for volunteers for the MS-150 to be held in the fall of this year. President Steve—W3UI, N3JVE—Brian, N3FTC—Joann and WN3PDB—Charly, have volunteered. Interested? Contact AA3EP—Charlie his telephone number is right here

Continued on page 7.

MINUTES

JUNE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Al Tribble, W3STW, Secretary

PMRC President WU3I—Steve opened the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Attending were K3KUD—Bob, W3BBB—Jim, K3KNH—Irwin, KB3IV—Ed, AA3EP—Charlie, W3GQD—Bill and W3STW—Al. We met at the home of NU3Y—Joe and N3KQH—Roxanne to whom we say thank you for the hospitality.

The first report was made by our Assistant Treasurer KB3IV—Ed and he reports that as of June 7th the treasury had a balance of \$1870.36 and during the period there was an income of \$154.00 and an expense of \$95.36 leaving a balance, as of tonight, of \$1929.00.

K3KUD—Bob, Budget and Audit Committee Chairman, had nothing directly to report from the Budget and Audit Committee, however Bob did comment on the splitting up of the committee into separate Budget and Audit committees. After a short discussion of the pros and cons of the idea it was decided that the committee would continue intact. Steve mentioned that the break up of the Budget and Audit Committee may be resolved during the activities of the Reconstruction Committee. This committee was formed, you may recall in January of this year, in response to the concerns expressed by W3IIM—Jack, re: Budget and Audit Committee Reporting.

W3BBB—Jim, Emergency Coordinating Chairman and W3QV repeater Control Operator, had no emergency to coordinate, but did have a few comments re: W3QV. Jim read a letter from CHI pertaining to their indemnification of any accidents requiring his signature (or a PMRC Officer).

Property owned by CHI would be future sites of W3QV off-site receivers. There was a lot of discussion as to who would be or should be liable in an accident, so the matter was not resolved. W3BBB reminded us that we don't have a lot of time.

N3OWM—Ted, Membership Committee was unable to attend but a report given by KB3IV—Ed is as follows: an application for membership from KB3AFH Jules was nominated and approved. An application for membership from WN3PDB—Charly was read to the BoD and will be voted on at another BoD meeting. Ed also submitted a letter from NZ3O—Byron, to rejoin PMRC. The BoD had no objection so welcome back Byron. Ed, donning his Net Control hat, mentioned that the Sunday morning net activities are doing OK and gave a word of thanks to those participating. The CW training net is over for the summer so we are all looking to the fall when this activity should resume in good shape.

President Steve mentioned that Family Night will be on July 5th and will feature the Omniverse Theater film "The Living Seas." The price of admission for all is \$4 (this is half of the going rate i.e. \$8). Regarding the V.E. Program Steve tells us that test sessions will be held on the 5th floor. Seems the two class rooms 501 and 502 are best suited for test purposes.

AA3EP—Charlie is asking for MS-150 support. This event takes place on September 30th and October 1st. Please give Charlie a call if you can help.

Regarding W3TKQ, Steve submitted to the treasurer \$150 from the sale of equip-

June 8, 1995

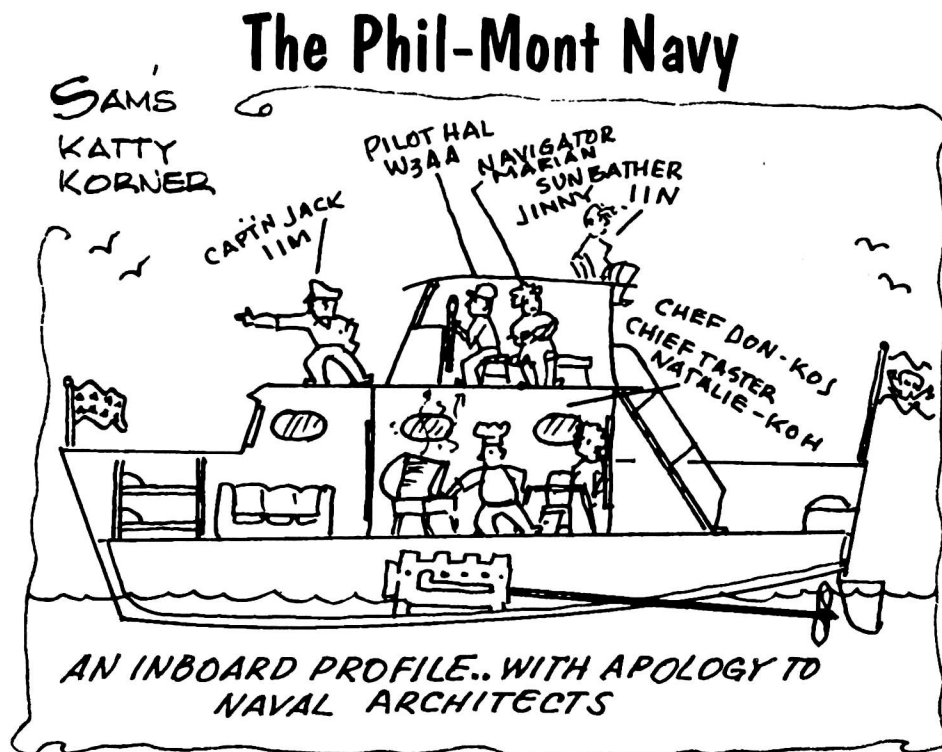
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB057 NH antenna bill signed

New Hampshire Governor Stephen Merrill has signed into law a bill protecting amateurs' rights to antennas. The bill, HB 379, earlier passed both the state's House and Senate unanimously and was signed by the governor on June 5. It was originally written to include slightly stronger language regarding antennas than that contained in PRB-1; the language was then fine-tuned at the suggestion of members of the legislature who are "friendly to Amateur interests," according to ARRL New Hampshire Section Manager Al Shuman, N1FIK. The bill was filed on the coattails of New Hampshire's HB 1380, passed in 1994,

which provides protection from taxing Amateur Radio towers as real property.

HB 379 reads: "No city, town, or county in which there are located unincorporated towns or unorganized places shall adopt or amend a zoning ordinance or regulation with respect to antennas used exclusively in the amateur radio services that fail to conform to the limited federal preemption entitled Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2nd 952 (1985) issued by the Federal Communications Commission." In addition to Shuman, other New Hampshire amateurs who helped in this victory included Rep Ralph Rosen, W1HSB; Rep Tom Kirby, W1EJ; Rep Rudy Adler, W1GUA; Jack Sheehy, WA1ALM, and Cal Calvitto, WA1WOK. Rep Rosen wrote the bill. ♦



Attention Ford Owners who do HF mobiling.

Into the tank of the Ford F-150

by Fred Lamberti, KE3NP

I recently purchased a 1994 Ford F-150, and after installing my new Kenwood TS-50S in same, I noticed an S5 to S7 "white noise." I tried everything I could to correct it, but to no avail. I finally spoke to Jim (KZ2P), who had interference problems with his Explorer. He gave me the names and numbers of two Ford engineers.

My problem was caused by the electric fuel pump. To test to see if you have the same problem, do the following:

1. Install the radio, tune it to any band (I used 20M), and try a very quiet frequency. I don't think it matters what frequency you are on, since the noise is very broad-banded.
2. Close the door so you won't have interference from the door-open alarm.
3. While watching the S-meter, turn the ignition switch to "on," but do not start the engine. If you see the S-meter deflect to the right (with a burst of noise) for about one second, this is the fuel pump pressurizing the system. You have a problem.

As I noted before, this is not a pulse or ignition noise, but a rushing "white noise." The remedy for this problem is to install a filter on the electronic fuel pump. This is a warranty repair, so if your vehicle is still under the original or extended warranty, it will cost you nothing. My local dealer was not aware of the warranty repair, and I had to get him to call the Ford engineer in Michigan. The filter reduced my noise level from an S5 or S7 to an S2.

The proper procedure is to go to your Ford dealer first. Let the service manager

know that this is a warranty service, and refer to TSB #93-18-4. The filter part # is FP-F1PZ18B925A. The ground strap part # is 95873-S. Be sure to have them put the ground strap as close to the filter as possible (and not extend it to the front of the vehicle as in the original installation).

If the dealer or service manager needs authorization, or has any questions, have him call Pat Quinn (WD8JDZ) at (313) 323-2014. Pat is the Ford engineer who helped me. It is probably a good idea if you can call Pat first and pave the way.

Another engineer who handles other RFI complaints is Steve Sageman (WQ8T) whose number is (313) 323-9511. So if you have any other RFI complaints maybe Steve can help.

We can all thank Jim (KZ2P) and Gene (N4ANV) (who told Jim about the problem) for this information. If I can be of any help please give me a call. ☺

June 8, 1995

To all radio amateurs
SB QST ARL ARLB058 FCC on the Internet

The FCC has instituted an FCC homepage (<http://www.fcc.gov>) as an entry point to the Commission's on-line resources. The page features selectable buttons to go directly to high interest items such as the Daily Digest, the Commission Agenda, Auctions, and current rule makings. There also is a button called "Getting Information," providing a tour of what information is available and where it can be found on the site. It provides links to available on-line documents. There also is a link to the FCC telephone directory. A general mailbox for electronic mail to the FCC is: fccinfo@fcc.gov. ♦

122ND MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS JUNE

24 candidates took 49 elements
5 new amateurs plus 5 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

Sam Lewis, N3GPQ; Steve Hoch, WU3I; Wally Newell, K3JJO;

James McCloskey, KE3OP; Sal Valente, NS3Y;

Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y; Bob Freer, W3YLT;

**AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**
Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
SCIENCE MUSEUM**

For Information Call ND3Q at
(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505
Accessible by the handicapped.



Directors' Minutes—continued from page 6.

ment from WB3KAB—Bob. Steve has gone on record committing W3TKQ to be upgraded for Satellite Mode S operation. Ed is still listening for ideas regarding a special community type project involving W3TKQ. If you have something in mind give Ed a call please. ☺

ARRL on the World Wide Web

Internet users can find the League's home page by pointing their browsers at:
<http://www.acs.oakland.edu/barc/arrl.html>

General Minutes—continued from page 5.

in the *Blurb*.

Nominating Committee Chairman W3STW—Al, spoke to the membership about the formation of the Nominating Committee and identified K3KUD—Bob and K3GMH—Al as committee members. The Committee is now actively seeking candidates for the officers whose terms expire this December. If you are interested please contact me.

From the Welcoming Committee Chairman N3PDO—Mike comes the report that nine guests and 31 members attended tonight's meeting. Many thanks to Anna Popovic for helping with the fifty-fifty, and congratulations to N3GMH—Paul. As ever thanks to N3FVI Bill and those who helped to provide the refreshments. ☺

THE W 3 T K Q REPORT

To Anna:

*The sun declines, the shades increase,
The day of God is now retreating!
The world grows still, her breath is peace,
To wearied souls a heavenly greeting;
Fear not, man, thy coming night,
In the eve it will be light.*

*While still in clouds the sun delays,
Let us soar up, soar up to heaven,
That, parting with this day of days,
Sweet rest unto our souls be given;
And our hearts like stars be bright,
In the eve it will be light.*

*And when our sun of life retreats,
When evening's shadows round us hover,
Our longing heart no longer beats,
And grave-ward sinks our mortal cover—
We shall see a glorious sight,
In the eve it will be light.*

Hebrew Prayer

Anna Marie Popovic

June 29, 1984~June 23, 1995

—Ed Masarsky, KB3IV

Upgrading to General in Five Easy Steps!

Adam O'Donnell, N3RCS

So... You have been putting off studying for your General class ticket. You have kept on saying to yourself: "The code is too hard!" Probably the only thing that is stopping you from upgrading is a mental block. Read this article and then give the General test a run for its money.

1. **You have to want the upgrade:** Either listen on a friend's HF receiver, or go down to the club station, W3TKQ, and listen to the HF bands for a while, especially between 14225 kHz and 14350 kHz, or 3850 kHz and 4000 kHz. Do you hear all the action you're missing? That could be you working 3Y0PI, the DXpedition to a small island off of Antarctica. If you're like me, you would drive home and listen to some code right away!
2. **Study the code consistently:** Steve, WU3I, told me back in January of '95 that if you study CW 15 minutes a day, every day, that I would pick up my General in 5 weeks max. Ed, KB3IV, further instructed me to continually raise the speed of the code so that I am never "comfortable" listening to CW. That is, if I can get maybe 80% copy at 10 wpm, move it up to 11 wpm. I didn't listen to either of them until late May when I jumped from 7 wpm to 13 wpm in two weeks because of their advice!

3. **Find someone on the repeater to hound you:** Ask another ham to question you about how you are coming along in your CW study every time you get on the repeater. Try to pick someone really annoying. That way you will continually work on the code so you don't have to hear the other ham's voice again!

4. **Take the theory book everywhere:** Page through it on your lunch break. Quiz yourself while sitting at the tail end of a 2 mile backup on I-95. And if you have a personal computer, I can give you a copy of a shareware General test generator. You will be through the theory in no time flat.

5. **Don't sweat it:** Remember that this is a hobby! Think of the exams less as tests and more as a step in your evolution to becoming the epitome of hams around the world. It "ain't" that big of a deal. So what if you fail? You will be back next month—right?

If you follow these five easy steps, you can have your own General ticket in no time flat! Trust me! ☺

Editor's note: Adam, a new club member in 1994, is 16 years old.

for Oscar 13 on Mode B is 180 watts; for Phase 3D ERP is designed to be a whopping 2.5 kW. That change alone, plus the reliable antenna-aiming on Phase 3D should make a new world of strong signals at W3TKQ.

Al is also looking at Mode S (uplink 460 MHz, downlink 2400 MHz). That Mode is used now much less than Mode B. The ERP comparisons are 8 watts ERP for Oscar 13, 10,000 watts ERP for Phase 3D. So presumably for Phase 3D AMSAT will allocate more operating time to Mode S, and hams will go for the big signals. To keep up our access time to the satellite W3TKQ should have Mode S as well as Mode B. For Mode S operation W3TKQ will have to be updated with the following equipment: a converter (2.4 GHz in, 2 meters out), a mast mounted preamp, a 2.4 GHz antenna (dish or yagis) and low loss coax (at 2.4 GHz). Al and Steve inform me that Down East Microwave of Frenchtown, NJ sells converters and preamps which could be within the W3TKQ budget. S Band? Well within reach.

That's the local news. Now, what else will Phase 3D do to broaden the use of satellite communication and of our microwave bands? For one thing, the Phase 3D satellite will have several uplink and downlink frequency bands which can be combined in various ways, between 2.4 GHz and 24 GHz. Here very high gain antennas can be very small indeed, both on the satellite and at the Earth station. Also, the orbit for Phase 3D is chosen so that the satellite will return to the same spot in the sky every 48 hours. That means an Earth station could use it at those times with small, fixed antennas (no need for computer, software and tracking antennas). On the higher ranges

those little antennas could, for example, be on an apartment balcony!

These features of the Phase 3D design should make it possible for low budget hams to get into satellite communication without today's cost. True, a transceiver built for microwave bands would be costly. But you can save a lot by starting your uplink signal with a 10 or 2 meter transceiver (maybe you already have one) and driving a transverter which can be bought or built at less cost. No doubt AMSAT, and many others, will be looking at all the variables to figure out the handiest combination of frequencies and equipment.

Phase 3D will also have equipment to enhance use of packet. Still no FM, since it requires too much bandwidth and power. You will also have to wait for a later phase for a geosynchronous satellite, since that is still too expensive.

Speaking of money, that is still a problem for Satellite 3D. This satellite is much too big to piggyback on someone else's payload. *It* will be the payload. Cost of launch: \$1.9 million. Much of the tab is being picked up worldwide by AMSAT members, equipment manufacturers, etc. But this time there is a need for broader support. So the ARRL is now soliciting contributions for Phase 3D from amateurs generally. On page 177 of QST for May, 1995 there is an appeal for contributions, large or small (tax deductible). Here is an opportunity for each of us to show what the amateur community can do to populate those amateur microwave bands which may be threatened by big commercial interests. Also, a chance to improve W3TKQ. With thanks to W3STW for his helpful suggestions. ☺

THE NEW ERA SATELLITE

Henry Platt, W3UI

Launch it, and they will come! That thought may apply to AMSAT's Phase 3D satellite, which is expected to make a bright future for space communication in our microwave bands. Right now it is being assembled in a "clean room" at Orlando, FL. When all necessary funds have been raised, the new "bird" will head for orbit in April, 1996 aboard an Ariane 5 rocket from a launch site in Guyana. The backing for it is worldwide.

As a new satellite operator at W3TKQ, I am writing now to urge Phil-Mont members to support this project. In addition to its broader impact, it should greatly upgrade what visitors at The Franklin Institute see of satellite communication through W3TKQ. Let's look at the W3TKQ aspect first.

Today, our visitors generally are impressed by the computer generated world map and satellite display. They can understand that the computer is tracking the Oscar 13 satellite, and controlling the aim of the parallel yagis (circular polarization) up on the roof. The Icom 970H transceiver has no trouble working with Oscar 13's popular "Mode B" (435 MHz uplink, 2 meter downlink). Oscar 13's orbital path around the Earth is in the form of an ellipse (a squashed circle). This type path is helpful in that as Oscar 13 moves from horizon through apogee back to horizon it allows, with its on board transponder, several hours of amateur radio communications. This type path also reduces the number of times you would have to adjust your operating frequency because of the Doppler effect.

All very good, but there are problems. On-board power is low, signals (SSB and CW) are weak at best. Also, Oscar 13 has an "attitude" problem. When positioned to

aim its solar panels correctly at the sun, it cannot help letting its high gain directional antennas get "off target" so signals at earth stations are weak or nonexistent. Even with costly top-class gear like that at W3TKQ, Oscar 13 can be frustrating. One day you will be working Japan or Europe; the next day you will not even hear your own "return" signal. Worst of all, experts on gravitational matters say that Oscar 13 may reenter the earth's atmosphere and burn as soon as April, 1996 (it was launched in 1988).

Not to worry. As you probably know, satellite project 3D is being built to compensate for the attitude and eventual demise problems of Oscar 13. The Phase D satellite will have a similar but higher orbit, much more power, better antennas, more working frequencies (some in the microwave range above 3 GHz) and mechanisms which will keep the Phase 3D's high gain antennas pointed correctly at the earth at all times. You can read all about it in several QST articles: May, 1995, pages 21 and 177; May, 1993, page 49; and June, 1993, page 47. The 1993 articles are much stronger on the engineering. After reading the three articles I talked with Phil-Mont satellite gurus, Steve-WU3I and Al-W3STW to see what may be in store for W3TKQ. I will share with you a little of what was discussed.

Will there be Mode B operation on Phase 3D? YES! W3TKQ will continue using Mode B without new equipment. Al will be adding Phase 3D's Keplerian Elements to the computer satellite program. Then, watch out! Based on the Phase 3D features mentioned above, W3TKQ satellite operators, and others using Mode B, will experience greatly improved downlink signals. The effective radiated power (ERP)

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3PWG	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30	6 LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>	7	8 <div>1</div>
9 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS AA3CH <i>BRATS' Hamfest</i>	10	11	12 ○	13	14	15
16 2M NCS W3GQD 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3STW	17	18	19 DIRECTORS' MEETING at N3OOV's	20	21	22
23 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS KB3IV	24	25	26 W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET 8 PM	27 ●	28	29
30 2M NCS W3BBB 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3BBB	31			Successful people are the ones that do things that ordinary people don't like to do.		